

SUBJECT War Matériel for the Syrian Army

DATE DISTR. 6 October 1948

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. Source reports the following shipments of arms and ammunition into Syria:

- a. On 7 August six trucks carrying various types of weapons arrived in Damascus from Iran, via Iraq. These trucks were driven by soldiers of the Iranian Army.
- b. On 9 August Lt. Suhayl Bazi, the chief of the Military Police at Aleppo, arrived in Damascus with four large trucks loaded with machine guns received from the Turks at Ras al-Ain on the Syrian-Turkish border.
- c. A ship is expected to arrive at Latakia from Spain, loaded with arms which were purchased by Faysal Jamal, who had gone to Spain for that purpose. He was aided in this transaction by Mukaddin Fuad Mardam, who is still in Italy. Comment. Mukkadin Fuad Mardam was reported to be in Italy in April to handle the salvaging of the arms which were sunk in the ship LIND. 25X1X
- d. On 16 August, 246 machine guns and 8,000,000 rounds of ammunition were transported by an Italian plane to Mezze Airport at Damascus. Comment. An 25X1A
25X1X considered reliable states that while in Italy Mukkadin Fuad Mardam was negotiating for the purchase of the Zorzoli plant in Brescia and for its removal to Damascus. The Zorzoli plant manufactures the 45% "machine gun pistol" (pistola mitragliatrice). The same source reported that a Dr. Foglia, who was connected with Mardam's mission in Italy, had located a large stock of light machine guns for the Syrians. Dr. Foglia is connected with the FIAT interests. 25X1X

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- e. It is rumored that Syria will receive one hundred aircraft from Pakistan, as well as many weapons. (Washington Comment. [REDACTED])

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states that Mamduh Haffar, head of a Syrian military mission in Italy to purchase arms, was allegedly engaged in the purchase of arms in Italy for Pakistan. On 29 December 1947, 5 February 1948, and 8 February 1948 three KLM (Dutch Airlines) planes ceded to the Islamic Airways were loaded in Milan with military matériel for the Pakistan Government. Mamduh Haffar left on the plane that departed on 8 February. The matériel was furnished by the Baretta firm through Le Coulture firm of Geneva, Switzerland. [REDACTED])

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2. The Qadam munitions plant in Syria is making explosives in large quantities, mostly mortars.
3. The Permanent Palestine Bureau in Damascus is purchasing different types of munitions from the civilians in Syria.

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